



LEGISLATURE

MINUTES

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 21, 2019 | 8:30 a.m. | 450 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher, Chair
Rep. John Knotwell, Chair
Sen. Don L. Ipson
Sen. Jani Iwamoto
Sen. Todd Weiler
Rep. Kyle R. Andersen
Rep. Brady Brammer
Rep. Suzanne Harrison
Rep. Jon Hawkins
Rep. Phil Lyman
Rep. Val L. Peterson

Rep. Marc K. Roberts
Rep. Travis M. Seegmiller
Rep. Andrew Stoddard

Members Absent:

President J. Stuart Adams
Rep. Karen Kwan

Staff Present:

Mr. Brian J. Bean, Policy Analyst
Mr. Thomas R. Vaughn, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Tracey Fredman, Administrative Assistant

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1 . Committee Business

Chair Knotwell called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

2 . Required Report: Department of Veterans and Military Affairs

[2 - Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs Information Card, August 2019](#)

Gary Harter, Executive Director, Department of Veterans and Military Affairs, provided an update to the committee regarding the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs' operations.

Chair Knotwell relinquished the chair to Sen. Thatcher.

3 . Draft Legislation: Special Service District Bonds Secured by Mineral Lease

[3 - Draft Legislation "Government Operations Sunset Reauthorizations"](#)

MOTION: Chair Thatcher moved to approve draft legislation "Government Operations Sunset Reauthorizations" (2020FL-0517/003) as a committee bill. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 6.

Yeas-10

Rep. K. Andersen
Rep. B. Brammer
Rep. S. Harrison
Rep. J. Hawkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. J. Knotwell
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. M. Roberts
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. D. Thatcher

Nays-0

Absent-6

Sen. J. Adams
Sen. D. Ipson
Rep. K. Kwan
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. T. Seegmiller
Sen. T. Weiler

MOTION: Rep. Knotwell moved to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2019, meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 6.

Yeas-10

Rep. K. Andersen
Rep. B. Brammer
Rep. S. Harrison
Rep. J. Hawkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. J. Knotwell
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. M. Roberts
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. D. Thatcher

Nays-0Absent-6

Sen. J. Adams
Sen. D. Ipson
Rep. K. Kwan
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. T. Seegmiller
Sen. T. Weiler

4 . Executive Boards and Commissions

[4 - Executive Boards and Commissions, Considerations for Committee Draft Legislation](#)

Rep. Knotwell introduced the issue and indicated the intent that the draft legislation sunset all executive boards and commissions that are in statute.

Brian Bean, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, reviewed the first phase of the committee's draft legislation "Executive Boards and Commissions Amendments" and presented policy considerations for different categories of boards and commissions.

5 . Plurality

[5 - Plurality in Utah After S.B. 54](#)

Brian Bean discussed research regarding the effect of 2014 General Session S.B. 54, "Elections Amendments" on plurality in partisan primary elections.

Justin Lee, Director of Elections, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, responded to committee members' questions about plurality and S.B. 54.

Ricky Hatch, Clerk/Auditor, Weber County, and Chair, Clerks' Legislative Policy Committee, responded to questions from the committee regarding policy options to address plurality.

MOTION: Rep. Brammer moved to recommend to the Legislative Management Committee that the Legislature not address plurality at this time as it does not appear to be an immediate problem. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 4.

Yeas-12

Rep. K. Andersen
Rep. B. Brammer
Rep. S. Harrison
Rep. J. Hawkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. J. Knotwell
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. M. Roberts
Rep. T. Seegmiller
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. D. Thatcher

Nays-0Absent-4

Sen. J. Adams
Sen. D. Ipson
Rep. K. Kwan
Sen. T. Weiler

6 . Petition Administration[6 - The Administrative Burden of Petitions](#)

Ryan Cowley, Director of Elections, Weber County, discussed the petition process, the administrative burden on county clerks to process petitions, and recommendations for the use of technology in the signature-gathering portion of the petition process.

Justin Lee discussed the increasing burden on county clerks to process petitions and responded to questions from the committee regarding technology that could be used in the signature gathering process.

7 . Technical Corrections[7 - Lieutenant Governor's Office Cleanup Recommendations](#)

Justine Lee proposed technical corrections to election-related statutes for the committee's consideration.

MOTION: Rep. Hawkins moved to open a committee bill file to address technical corrections suggested by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 4.

Yeas-12

Rep. K. Andersen
Rep. B. Brammer
Rep. S. Harrison
Rep. J. Hawkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. M. Roberts
Rep. T. Seegmiller
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. D. Thatcher
Sen. T. Weiler

Nays-0Absent-4

Sen. J. Adams
Sen. D. Ipson
Rep. J. Knotwell
Rep. K. Kwan

8 . Plain Language Ballots

This item was not considered.

9 . Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Robert moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 4.



Yeas-12

Rep. K. Andersen
Rep. B. Brammer
Rep. S. Harrison
Rep. J. Hawkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. M. Roberts
Rep. T. Seegmiller
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. D. Thatcher
Sen. T. Weiler

Nays-0

Absent-4

Sen. J. Adams
Sen. D. Ipson
Rep. J. Knotwell
Rep. K. Kwan

Chair Thatcher adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.